

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated June 5, 2006, which has a shortened statutory period set to expire September 5, 2006.

Claims 1-8 Are Definite

Applicants have amended Claims 1-8 to address the Examiner's concern regarding the term "substantially similar". Specifically, Claims 1-8 now recite the "same" rim width. Applicants believe that the "same" rim width encompasses both rim widths that are identical as well as, under the doctrine of equivalents, rim widths that vary only slightly. Based on these amendments, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 112 rejection of Claims 1-8.

Claims 1-8 Are Directed To Statutory Subject Matter

Applicants have amended Claims 1-8 to more generically recite the invention. Specifically, Claims 1-8 now recite a "tool set". Applicants submit that a tool set can be implemented in any number of ways including with the use of computer software. Based on these claim amendments, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 101 rejection of Claims 1-8.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Specifically, Claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and further rewritten to overcome the 101 and 112 rejections. Applicants have rewritten Claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 in independent form

including all of the limitations of the base claims (Claims 1 and 5, as appropriate). Based on these and the above amendments Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claims 2, 3, 6, and 7.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 8 Are Patentable Over Kachwala

Claims 1 and 5, as amended, recites in part, "means for providing a same rim width in the subset of the structures based on edges provided by the means for analyzing." Applicants respectfully submit that Kachwala fails to disclose or suggest this limitation. Specifically, Kachwala only teaches that OPC is required for dense features. Page 3, fifth paragraph. Because Kachwala fails to disclose or suggest the recited means for providing, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 5.

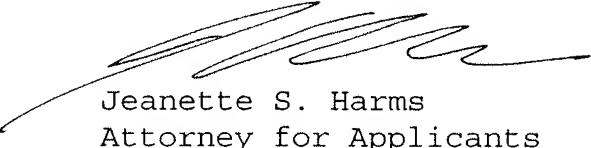
Claims 4 and 8, as amended, recite in part, "means for downsizing the attenuated region to generate the same rim width". The Office Action cites Kachwala, page 5, first paragraph as teaching this limitation. Applicants respectfully traverse this characterization. Page 5, first paragraph teaches that the CD and overlay of chrome to the attenuating layer must be well controlled, e.g. to less than 25 nm. This overlay tolerance merely teaches that once a position of the chrome is determined (and Kachwala does not teach how this is done), then the final position must be within 25 nm. Because Kachwala does not disclose or suggest how to provide the recited rim width, i.e. by downsizing the attenuated region, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 4 and 8.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application.
Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions, please telephone the
undersigned at 408-451-5907 to expedite prosecution of this
case.

Respectfully submitted,



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